ACROSTICHUM thelypteris.

Sp. Pl. 1528. *Flo. Suecica. Ed.* 2. 928. *Lobel. Icon.* 814. *Filix querna repens. Park.* 1041.

TAB. XLIII. XLIV.

LADIES' ACROSTICHUM.

THE root creeps horizontally under the ſurface of the ground, is of a black colour and brittle ſubſtance, crooked, and about the thickneſs of a duck's quill; it emits many branches, the ſize of ſmall packthread, which are hung round with numerous, dark brown, capillary fibres.

From the root, as it creeps along, the firſt leaves riſe at diſtances, two or three near together. The rib is from nine to fifteen inches high, ſmooth and naked, very ſlender, and of a pale herby colour.

The ſecond leaves from ten to fifteen pairs, oppoſite, except one or two of the loweſt pairs; lower pairs remote, growing gradually cloſer upwards, longeſt about the middle pair, all of them lance-ſhaped, and placed nearly at right angles with the rib of the firſt leaf.

Lobes of the ſecond leaves ten or twelve pairs, divided down to the nerve; they are broad, ſhort, rounded off at the extremity, and quite ſmooth and entire on the edges; their upper ſurface ſmooth and plain, not obviouſly marked with veins, as in the Polypodium thelypteris; this circumſtance, together with its creeping root, and its being a much ſmaller